



**FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT of
CORRECTIONS**

Governor

RICK SCOTT

Secretary

JULIE L. JONES

501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500

<http://www.dc.state.fl.us>

March 27, 2017

Brain Fowler, President
Criminon Florida
P.O. Box 7727
Clearwater, FL 33758

Dear Mr. Fowler,

On behalf of the Florida Department of Corrections, we want to thank you for submitting your program application to the Bureau of Applied Science, Research, and Policy for consideration under the Program Clearinghouse and Review Team process. The Department is committed to connecting services and programs to inmate and offender needs maximizing opportunities for successful transitions within the community.

Based on a review of your application submission, we have determined your program would be categorized as an elective program. A review of The Way to Happiness program concluded that there is not sufficient evidence that the program meets a criminogenic need.

This letter is to inform you of the program categorization within the program clearinghouse only. All program implementation and monitoring decision will be made by the facility administration and appropriate Bureau Chief.

Again, thank you for your submission and your continued support of the Department's mission and goals.

Sincerely,

Kerensa P. Lockwood, Ph.D.
Assistant Chief
Bureau of Applied Science, Research, & Policy



Florida Department of Corrections Program Review Application

Applicant Information

Contact
Person
Name:

Fowler
Last

Brian
First

W
M.I.

Date: **2/9/2017**

Address:

P.O. Box 7727
Street Address

Unit #

Clearwater
City

FL
State

33758-9906
ZIP Code

Phone: **630-664-7392**

Email: **President@CriminonFL.org**

Title of Program/Service: **The Way to Happiness Seminar, offered by Criminon Florida**

What are you requesting
from the Florida
Department of
Corrections? Please be
specific (e.g., program
implementation;
purchase material, etc.)?

Approval of this seminar, allowing for my organization to continue delivery of this seminar in FDC institutions.

What is the
timeframe in which
you would like a
response?

As soon as possible please. We are currently delivering the program through volunteers and inmate facilitators at multiple FDC facilities and have additional interest from other facilities and would like to begin delivery as soon as possible.

Is this request part of a grant funding opportunity?

YES NO
☐ ☒

Are program specific credentials or professional license required of the program facilitator?

YES NO
☐ ☒

If yes, by whom and date
received?

What institution(s) are you
proposing to offer this
program or service at?

Okeechobee CI, Hardee CI, et al. My team contacts facilities and introduces the program to see if there is need/interest, so this would be ongoing.

Have you ever been convicted of a felony?

YES NO
☐ ☒

If yes, explain:

Criminogenic Domains

Criminogenic needs are dynamic indicators that directly impact an individual's propensity for criminal behavior. These dynamic indicators, or domains, are antisocial personality, criminal associates, substance abuse, family/marital, leisure/recreation, criminal thinking/attitude, and employment/school. The Department seeks to positively impact these domains through evidence-based programming. Research suggests that reducing the criminogenic needs of an individual will result in a reduction in their potential for recidivism. Below are the domains in which the Department of Corrections assesses core and elective programs. Please review the definitions and select the domain(s) in which your program empirically addresses.

YES ☒ NO ☐ **Social Awareness:** This domain focuses on changing the pattern of manipulation, exploitation, and propensity for violating the rights of others by educating individuals about the impact of risky and antisocial behavior, and teaching and promoting prosocial interaction, anger management, problem-solving, and coping skills.

YES ☒ NO ☐ **Criminal Associates:** This domain focuses on promoting self-management and decreasing association with friends or acquaintances who practice antisocial behavior, and by highlighting the individual's role in peer association, the effects and consequences, and encouraging prosocial alternatives.

YES ☒ NO ☐ **Criminal Thinking/Attitude:** This domain focuses on challenging the reasoning and/or perceptions that lead to the violation of the accepted norms/conventions of society by providing individuals the opportunity to examine and identify thinking errors and triggers of criminal thinking, as well as to practice expanded thinking, empathy, and prosocial cognition.

YES ☒ NO ☐ **Family/Marital:** This domain focuses on reducing familial conflict and strengthening familial relationships by assisting with activities that develop healthy support systems (i.e. encouraging letter writing, encouraging positive behavior to merit visitation privileges), teaching parenting skills, and emphasizing responsibility for dependent children.

YES ☐ NO ☒ **Employment/Education:** This domain focuses on encouraging academic and vocational program achievement and participation in programs that assist individuals in job searching, preparing and applying for a job, and keeping a job.

YES ☐ NO ☒ **Substance Abuse:** This domain focuses on services that are designed to combat the maladaptive, antisocial pattern of substance use through education and/or treatment that provides individuals with the tools to recognize this behavior and to abstain and/or control it.

YES ☒ NO ☐ **Leisure/Recreation:** This domain focuses on encouraging participation in prosocial activities or pastimes with positive, holistic value during "free" or "non-structured" time. This dimension of prosocial behavior also promotes wellness and healthy community living.

YES ☐ NO ☒ **Elective Programs:** Programs not designated as a core program or address a criminogenic need, but that provides essential habilitation skills shown to positively affect a criminogenic need, provide intrinsic, prosocial value or meet other institutional objectives (e.g., alumni association, life skills, Gavel Club, mentoring programs, programs sponsored by volunteers).

If you selected yes for Elective Programs, please provide a description of the services you are proposing.

Evaluation Studies

Please provide citations of evaluation studies conducted on the program or other resources, which indicates it is an evidence-based practice for changing offender behavior. If not applicable, please explain why.

Citation:

The Way to Happiness Course is the cornerstone of the Criminon curriculum, providing participants with lessons in understanding and integrating the 21 tenets of L. Ron Hubbard's *The Way To Happiness* into their lives. The course is guided by a 64-page booklet entitled *The Way to Happiness* and a 313-page workbook designed for on-site delivery. Each tenet is explained, followed by a series of questions and activities designed to reinforce the importance of integrating the principles into the participant's daily life. The curriculum covers topics in the areas of personal, civic, legal, and social ethics, framing them so as to show the participant how adhering to the principles in *The Way to Happiness* can ensure their survival⁶ and lead to a happier, more fulfilling life. The course seeks to accomplish this by appealing to the participant's self-interest with examples of how his or her behavior can positively or negatively influence his or her happiness and survival. (Page 10)

The Criminon program is based on the fundamental assumption that the root causes of criminal behavior are lack of self-respect and self-esteem. A positive view of one's self-worth is the foundation that allows individuals to choose to engage in pro-social (i.e., non-criminal) behavior. The Criminon program contains many elements of effective CBT rehabilitative programming. The curriculum places a strong emphasis on positive behavior change through changes in the way one thinks about his or her own behavior and relationships and how those factors influence one's own life and the lives of those around him/her. (Page 39)

Source: Criminon Program Evaluation, Urban Institute Justice Policy Center, 2006

[Please note: This evaluation was of the complete Criminon program, the first course of which is *The Way to Happiness*. This seminar presents the same information.]

Citation:

Citation:

Summary of Program

Please provide a typed summary of your program/service using the checklist below to ensure all areas are addressed. Please attach a copy of the program curriculum (if applicable).

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson plan or structured outline that shows the overall objective of the program, the modules or topics covered in each session. | <input type="checkbox"/> Describe the methods of program delivery (e.g., lecture/discussion, role playing, videos, homework, etc.). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Explain any modifications made to the original program format (e.g., shortened or lengthened, changed topics/activities, or changed in any way). | <input type="checkbox"/> The need the program will fulfill. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefits to the community, participant, and/or Department of Corrections. | <input type="checkbox"/> Describe the target audience/participants. Are there any exclusions or specific inclusion criteria. |

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Describe the length of the program, including times, hours and days requested to operate the program. | <input type="checkbox"/> Describe the outcomes expected, including what data will be collected and how (i.e., assessments, pre/post surveys, interviews, etc.). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If the program is certified by other entities or state agency. | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide details if this program has been offered with a criminal justice population previously, include when, where and by whom. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plans for ongoing communication during the implementation and follow up phases, inclusive of how you will report any outcomes. | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide copies of credentials/licensure/training needed by facilitator to offer program. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Describe how confidentiality will be accomplished, including whether an informed consent will be used. | <input type="checkbox"/> Describe any risk to program participants that may occur. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If any fees are associated with the program that the Department of Corrections would be responsible for. | <input type="checkbox"/> How will the program and delivery be monitored, including by whom and how frequently? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attach copy of the program curriculum. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other pertinent information. |

Submission of Application and Materials

The completed application and applicable materials should be sent to ProgramClearinghouse@FDC.MyFlorida.com.
OR by U.S. Mail to:

Applied Science, Research, and Policy
 Division of Development: Improvement and Readiness
 Florida Department of Corrections
 501 South Calhoun Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500

Signature

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Date: 9 FEB 17



REHABILITATION, REFORM, CRIME PREVENTION

9 February 2017

Dr. Kerensa Lockwood
Florida Department of Corrections
501 South Calhoun Street
Tallahassee FL 32399-2500

Dear Dr. Lockwood:

Thank you for your interest in reviewing Criminon Florida and *The Way to Happiness* Seminar.

Enclosed you will find the completed program review application and the summary of the program, as well as a Criminon brochure.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to schedule a time for me to speak with you or your colleagues.

I look forward to hearing your feedback.

Best regards,

Brian Fowler
President



REHABILITATION, REFORM, CRIME PREVENTION

The Way to Happiness Seminar Summary 9 February 2017

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A. Criminon Florida

Criminon means "no crime." Criminon Florida is a non-profit organization established in 1992 and is a chapter of Criminon International. We are dedicated to criminal rehabilitation and reintegration through our education curricula for offenders. To accomplish our aims, we use the secular works of author and humanitarian, L. Ron Hubbard.

Criminon Florida offers *The Way to Happiness Seminar* as well as onsite and correspondence courses covering such subjects as how to study, how to effectively communicate and how to identify antisocial people.

B. *The Way to Happiness Seminar*

The Way to Happiness is a booklet written by L. Ron Hubbard in 1981 and presents a modern-day, common-sense moral code through the detailing of 21 principles.

The Way to Happiness Seminar is delivered using the *The Way to Happiness Restoring Self-Respect and Common Sense Values Kit*, provided by The Way to Happiness Foundation International. The kit consists of a Facilitator's Guide with lesson plans for a series of sessions totaling 20 hours, a video depicting each principle and *The Way to Happiness* booklets.

After viewing each principle, a group discussion is led by the seminar facilitator. Some of the topics, as covered in *The Way to Happiness* booklet itself, include "Be Temperate", "Set a Good Example", "Don't Do Anything Illegal", "Do Not Steal", "Be Industrious", and so forth.

The emphasis of the seminar sessions is on *application* so these principles are assimilated and used.

C. Program Benefits

The expected outcome of this seminar is the restoration of the offender's self-respect and a reduction in likelihood to engage in criminal behavior. For the Department of Corrections, the expected outcome is a reduction of infractions and incidents of violence within the facility.



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D. Why This Program is Needed

By survey of inmates and administrators (including AWP's, educators and classification officers) this material fills the void of a practicable moral code for a population where such codes have either deteriorated or simply do not exist. Additionally, given that Criminon Florida is a secular organization and only uses L. Ron Hubbard's secular works, the nonreligious nature of the program is appealing to inmates who favor such programming.

E. Program Cost

There are no associated fees to the Department of Corrections for this seminar. Criminon Florida is a 501(c)(3) registered with the state of Florida and costs related to the seminar are funded through individual and corporate donations.

THE CURRICULUM

A. Lesson Plan/Curriculum

A complete curriculum, laid out through detailed lesson plans, is included in facilitator's guide in the seminar delivery kit on pages 27-97.

B. Curriculum Changes

Criminon Florida has added an additional component to the virtues project worksheets presented on pages 80-91. The Criminon Florida team has created worksheets participants use for this project, which are subsequently reviewed by our delivery team to assess whether the participant has demonstrated proper application of that virtue and thus achieved the desired result.

C. Length of Program

The facilitator's guide states the seminar takes 20 hours (pages 25-26). Our delivery team agrees that 18-24 hours is indeed the norm.

DELIVERY

A. Method of Delivery

There are twenty-one principles, or precepts, that are taught as individual lessons. Each lesson has two distinct parts. First, the facilitator plays a video which both details the precept and shows it demonstrated/acted out. After the video is played, the facilitator leads the group through a discussion of the precept and how they have observed the results of its violation, its proper usage, etc., as given in the facilitator's



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guide. To ensure maximal understanding, prior to viewing the video the facilitator is directed to define certain words and concepts for the participants as they will be used in the material that follows.

In addition to the discussion after each virtue, the twentieth precept is *Try to Treat Others as You Would Want Them to Treat You*. In this precept, Mr. Hubbard presents twenty human virtues, including honesty, kindness and self-control. At this point in the seminar each virtue is practiced for an entire day and the participant reports an example of who the virtue was applied to, what was done and the results of this application.

B. Credentials for Facilitation

Although there are no mandatory credentials/licensure/training requirements for volunteers or institution staff to facilitate this program, our VP of Operations does a training session with each volunteer facilitator and has also trained institution staff to deliver. Inmate facilitators are asked to take a Personnel Potential Analysis test and to sign a facilitator's agreement before they will be authorized to deliver the program.

C. Criminon Florida Oversight

Where we deliver this program, we liaise with an Educator, Chaplain, Assistant Warden, etc., during implementation and on an ongoing basis to ensure the inmates are attending and progressing well and our contacts and the institution in general are satisfied with the process and outcome. When the program is volunteer or staff-facilitated, we request a weekly report is made to our Onsite Programs Manager detailing attendance, comments and requests for assistance and the like by both the facilitator and our primary institutional contact. If inmate-facilitated, we also request a similar form be mailed to us regularly by the inmate facilitator and our primary contact.

The overall program and its delivery is monitored by the Criminon Florida delivery and executive teams on a weekly basis through the reports referenced above and through regular service calls to appropriate institution personnel.

THE PARTICIPANT

A. Target Audience

The target audience is offenders and ex-offenders. We do not have literacy requirements, as this is an audio-visual and discussion-based program. Where we have a semi-literate or illiterate inmate participating, we have him or her pair up with a literate inmate to fill out surveys and the virtues worksheets.



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B. Expected Outcomes

As stated earlier, the expected outcome of this seminar is the restoration of the offender's self-respect and a reduction in likelihood to engage in criminal behavior.

Outcomes will be evaluated through pre/post survey collection and participant success stories. Three seminar success stories and a completed pre/post survey are appended to this summary for reference.

C. Risk to Participants

There are no risks to program participants.

D. Confidentiality

At this time there are no confidentiality requirements for enrollment in our seminars.

PREVIOUS DELIVERY

We have delivered this seminar at the following institutions:

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Seminars</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Facilitated by</u>
Martin CI	12	2011-2016	Inmate Facilitator
Hernando CI	5	2012-2015	Criminon Volunteer
Lowell CI	3	2015-2016	Criminon Volunteer
FWRC	2	2014	Criminon Volunteer/ Inmate Facilitator
Sago Palm Reentry Center	3	2012-2014	Inmate Facilitator
Martin Work Camp	1	2013-2015	Inmate Facilitator
Graceville CF	1	2016	Inmate Facilitator
Apalachee CI (East)	1	2016	Inmate Facilitator
Franklin CI	1	2016	Inmate Facilitator
FCC Coleman - Medium	3	2014-2016	Criminon Volunteer
FCC Coleman - Protective Custody Unit	1	2016	Institution Staff
Manatee County Jail	4	2016	Criminon Volunteer
Pinellas County Jail	1	2012-2013	Criminon Volunteer
Escambia County Jail	1	2016	Institution Staff
Marion Youth Camp	1	2016	Criminon Volunteer
Charles Britt Academy	1	2016	Criminon Volunteer
Walton Youth Development Center	1	2015	Criminon Volunteer



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APPENDED DOCUMENTATION

- I. Three seminar participant Success Stories
- II. One seminar participant Pre/Post Questionnaire
- III. Four letters of endorsement from facility administrators

CONTACT

Any questions regarding this summary should be made to:

Brian Fowler
President
Criminon Florida
Email: President@CriminonFL.org
Phone: 630-664-7392